



MassDEP said that firms and organizations that receive a notice of non-compliance are required to respond to the agency with a plan of action to stop the disposal of banned materials.

Get more information at

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/releases/massdep-steps-up-waste-ban-compliance-strategy.html>.

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## Arizona Firm to Pay \$120,000 for CRT Waste Handling Violations

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced last week that Dlubak Glass Co., Inc. has agreed to pay \$120,000 in a “*consent judgment approved in Maricopa County Superior Court for hazardous waste violations in the storage and recycling of cathode ray tube (CRT) glass at its Yuma facility.*”

According to Arizona DEQ, “*inspectors found broken CRT glass throughout the five-acre facility and stained soil in several locations.*” Testing of soil samples from the property found lead levels as high as 75 times greater than the allowable maximum federal and state level.

More information from the Arizona DEQ announcement is available at

<http://www.azdeq.gov/function/news/2014/download/030714.pdf>.

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## Metro Vancouver Opens Public Consultation on Organic Waste Disposal Ban

In 2015, the Vancouver, British Columbia region will phase in a ban on landfill disposal of food waste. The ban will apply to commercial businesses, institutions, and single- and multi-family residences.

Last month, Metro Vancouver opened a public consultation to help determine what materials to ban first (e.g., food only or food-contaminated paper products and packaging), possible exemptions, enforcement and other issues.

The public consultation, which takes the form of an online survey, concludes at the end of April.

Get more information at

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solidwaste/planning/Engagement/Pages/ODBSurvey.aspx>.

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## Singapore NEA Updates Mandatory Energy Labeling Scheme for Consumer Products

Yesterday, the Singapore National Environment Agency announced a number of revisions to the Mandatory Energy Labeling Scheme (MELS) that will help consumers purchase more energy-efficient products. First, labels on covered products that estimate the products' energy

consumption will feature new graphics to help highlight the most efficient products. The new labeling will need to be displayed beginning on September 1 of this year.

Second, the MELS will be extended to include televisions, laundry dryers and lighting products beginning on April 1 of this year. The NEA said additional products would be added to the MELS in the next few years.

The Singapore NEA announcement is posted at <http://app2.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/newsroom/news-releases/enhancements-to-improve-energy-efficiency-for-households-to-be-implemented>.

## Statistics & Trends

### French Compliance Scheme Collects 1,722 Tons of Medical WEEE in First Year

Under the EU WEEE Directive, EEE medical devices are a category of e-waste that must be recycled. In France, the compliance scheme Recylum, which collects waste lamps, has been collecting medical WEEE for more than a year and on Monday reported its first annual collection totals.

For 2013, 1,722 tons of medical equipment was collected or 23% of the amount of equipment placed on the market last year.

Recylum also reported that 135 medical equipment producers have signed agreements, representing roughly 70% of all such manufacturers. The compliance scheme also said it has expanded its scope to include agreements with dental equipment producers on January 1 of this year.

Get more information at <http://www.recylum.com/communiqués-de-presse-recylum/recyclage-equipements-electriques-medicaux-1-an-dactivite-1-722-tonnes-collectees-en-2013/>

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### Australian Capital Territory Seeks Advanced Waste-to-Energy Facility

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell, announced a new policy last week that would provide "up to 23 MW of feed-in-tariff entitlements" to a company interested in building an advanced waste-to-energy facility (gasification, pyrolysis or plasma gasification) in the territory by 2020.

*"A regional materials recovery and bioenergy facility could convert ACT and regional organic waste into renewable electricity, with enough energy to power over 15,000 Canberra households, once the facility is operational,"* said Corbell. *"It can also recover high-value plastics and metals that would otherwise end up in landfill."*

However, the announcement was short on details, and cautioned that, *"The model of delivery and the timing of any project will be subject to budget consideration."*

The ACT announcement is posted at

[http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open\\_government/inform/act\\_government\\_media\\_releases/corbell/2014/turning-waste-into-energy](http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/corbell/2014/turning-waste-into-energy)

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## Dutch Environmental Ministry Launches Sustainable Living Web Site

On March 10, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment launched a web site offering advice and tools for sustainable living. According to a study sponsored by the Ministry, more than half of residents surveyed said they want more information on how to live more sustainably.

The new site focuses on five sustainability areas including waste. Advice and tools in the waste areas include an app to assist with proper recycling, envelope stickers to help reduce junk mail delivery, information on product sharing or renting services (in lieu of product purchasing), information on repairing products to keep them out of landfills, the benefits of using reusable carryout bags, information on proper battery and electronics recycling, and providing input to help make packaging more eco-friendly.

The URL of the sustainable living web site is

<http://www.duurzaamdoen.nl/>.

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## Hong Kong EPD Launches Recycling Mobile Phone App

The Government of Hong Kong announced on Monday a free cell phone app is now available for residents to "*obtain waste reduction and recycling information more easily.*" The app complements the dedicated waste reduction and recycling web site maintained by the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

The app includes a map with collection-point locations and lists what recyclables they accept. Users are presented with the closest drop-off points for various recyclable items. The app is available in Android and iPhone formats.

The Government of Hong Kong announcement is posted at

[http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2014/03/20140310\\_153628.shtml](http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2014/03/20140310_153628.shtml).

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## Austin, Texas Diverts 1,800 Tons of Organic Waste in First Year of Pilot Program

In support of its goal to divert 90 percent of materials from landfills by 2040, the City of Austin launched a curbside organic waste collection pilot program last year. Last month, city officials said the pilot program collected more than 1,800 tons of organic materials during its first year. Collected organics included food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings.

City officials also announced that 6,500 additional Austin households were being added to the pilot this year, bringing the total number of participating households to approximately 14,000.

Under the pilot, collection of organic waste is free. City officials say the program saves residents money by reducing their trash collection, which is charged based on trash bin size.

Get more information at

<http://www.austintexas.gov/news/city-expands-curbside-organics-collection-pilot-program-include-14000-austin-households>

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## Business Initiatives

### Tetra Pak Highlights 2013 Recycling and Sustainability Improvements

Last week, packaging maker Tetra Pak highlighted several sustainability improvements last year as it pursues a goal of developing a "*fully renewable package*." It uses of Forest Stewardship Council certified paperboard increased from 38% to 41%, and it developed a HPDE plastic cap derived from sugar cane. In 2013, 1.1 billion Tetra Pak packages used the sugar caned-derived plastic cane, nearly doubling the number of caps used in 2012.

Another innovation launched in 2013, was a plastic top that detaches from the carton sleeve, facilitating consumer separation of the two types of material.

Recycling of Tetra Pak packaging in 2013 rose to 43 billion units, a 4 billion unit increase over 2012.

Get more information on 2013 Tetra Pak sustainability improvements at

<http://www.tetrapak.com/about-tetra-pak/press-room/news/progress-towards-environmental-targets>.

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### DIGITALEUROPE Launches Logos to Identify Mercury-Containing Displays

The EU trade association DIGITALEUROPE launched new logos last month to identify which televisions and computer monitors contain mercury. One logo indicates that a screen contains mercury, and the other indicates that a screen is mercury-free. Their use is voluntary.

Although DIGITALEUROPE supports a phase out of mercury in displays, it said displays that contain cold cathode fluorescent lamps "*will continue to be disposed of by consumers for at least another decade*."

The logos were developed with assistance from the United Kingdom's Waste Resources and Action Programme, which said the logos should help WEEE processors in separating mercury-containing devices from the rest of the waste stream.

The DIGITALEUROPE announcement can be found at

<http://www.digitaleurope.org/>.

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